The Long Island FISHERMAN

JANUARY 13th, ISSUE NO. 2, 1972

FREE COURSES IN BOAT HANDLING

Coast Guard Auxiliary, Northport Flotilla 19-2, asks all to make Safe Boating one of your New Year's Resolutions for the coming year. To help you fulfill that Resolution in 1972, the Auxiliary is offering a course in Safe Boating and Seamanship which will be held Monday evenings beginning January 17, at the Laurel Avenue Junior High School on Maple Avenue in Northport.

This is a new public education course for all interested in boating, but it is not necessary to own a boat to participate. Features added to the curriculum for this course will be seminars on the legal requirements for boating, aids to navigation, charts and compasses, and radio-telephone. Registration will take place the first night of the course, January 17th.

Call J. Michael Zarrella - 585-8603 - for further information.

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Flotilla 13-7, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, is pleased to announce that it has scheduled two public education courses in small boat handling and seamanship. One course will be held at Gimbels, in Green Acres Shopping Center, Valley Stream, Long Island, starting on January 10, 1972 at 7:30 P.M. The other course will take place at the Baldwin Senior High School, Baldwin, Long Island, starting on January 17, 1972, at 8:00 P.M. Each course will consist of eight classes; one two hour session each week. Construction, maneuvering, rules of the road, charting, safety will be among the subjects covered. Boaters, non-boaters and their families are invited to attend these free courses. Registration will take place the first night of class.

For further information call Mrs. Molly Mitcheltree, Public Education Officer of Flotilla 13-7 at (516) TA 6-1034 or Mr. Tom Fusto, Assistant Public Education Officer at (516) IV 3-1680.

******

Attention! Small boat skippers. Remember the three R's of safe boating. Red . . . right . . . return. Always keep the red buoys to starboard when returning to harbor. Educate yourself for safe boating by taking one of the free boating classes sponsored by the SOUTH SHORE POWER SQUADRON this spring.

Classes will begin as follows: East Meadow High School, January 19, 1972; Hicksville High School, January 25, 1972; Freeport High School, February 23, 1972.

All classes start at 8:00 P.M.

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Mr. Frank F. Farkas, Training Officer of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 12-3 of Glen Cove, announced today that his Flotilla has scheduled a Public Instruction Course in small boat handling and seamanship. The course will be held at Glen Cove High School, Dosoris Lane, and starts January 25, 1972 at 8:00 p.m.

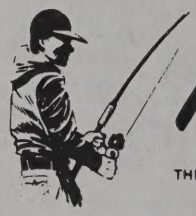
Registration can be made with Mr. Melvin Rosen, adult education director at the High School, phone number (516) 671-4500.

The course will consist of a two hour class each week for 12 weeks. The course is designed to help the boating enthusiasts, both men and women, to learn the fundamentals of safe boating. It is not necessary to be a boat owner to attend this course.

******

The Cross County Power Squadron is giving a free boating course starting February 1st, running 10 weeks at 8:00 P.M. every Tuesday. Location is Houck & Company, 1 Stone Place, Bronxville, New York.

For further information, call: (914) 636-3878 or (914) 636-4424.



The Long Island
FISHERMAN

THE LARGEST WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA
PUBLISHED SINCE 1966

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Vol. VII

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SALTWATER FISHING COURSE

Conducted by
BABYLON TUNA CLUB, INC.

A course in salt water fishing shall be offered by the Babylon Tuna Club commencing February 8, 1972 between 8:00 P.M. and 10:00 P.M. (2 Hr. sessions) for 8 consecutive Tuesdays. This course will be conducted at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, Deer Park (½ mile west of Deer Park Ave. on Long Island Ave.)

To be eligible, registration will be conducted at 8:00 P.M., Tuesday, Feb. 1st, 1972 at said hall and a fee of $8.50 per person is required.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. BASIC FISHING: Lecturer - Dan Schmidt III - Feb. 8th, 1972.
   (a) Fishing for fun-fish found in the Great South Bay and offshore of the Fire Island Inlet.
   (b) Basic equipment - from simple bay fishing to offshore game fishing
   (c) How to select rods and reels and a well balanced tackle box.
2. BAY FISHING: Lecturer - Gabby Guiffo - Feb. 15th, 1972.
   (a) What fish are available - flounders, winter and summer, weakfish, kingfish, blowfish and blacks.
   (b) Tackle and equipment used.
   (c) Bait and method of use, location in Bay and special tips.
3. STRIPED BASS: Lecturers- Joe Cottone & George Mussler - Trolling and Chumming - Feb. 22nd, 1972.
   (a) Tackle and equipment used.
   (b) General location of fishing area.
   (c) Method of trolling fish.
   (d) Method of chumming fish and the use of live bait.
4. TAGGING FISH: Lecturer - Joe Booth - Feb. 29th, 1972.
   (a) Why tag fish?
   (b) Type of tag and equipment
   (c) Reporting information in regard to tagged fish.

COMMON SENSE SEAMANSHIP: Lecturer - Chas. Bischett.
   (a) Days not to fish.
   (b) Knowing your inlet and its changing conditions.
   (c) Recommended safety equipment to have on board.

5. SHARK FISHING: Lecturers - Garry Schneider and Joe Booth - Mar. 7th, 1972.
   (a) Species available in this area.
   (b) Bait and chum used.
   (c) Tackle, gaffs, rod, reels, special equipment.
   (d) Techniques of fishing and location.
   (e) How to mount jaws, etc.
6. BLUEFISHING: Lecturer - George Mussler - Mar. 14th, 1972.
   (a) Explanation of species (chopper)
   (b) Trolling equipment used.
   (c) Technique and location.
   (d) Chumming; bait & chum used.
   (e) Tackle, line and method used.
7. WRECK FISHING: Lecturers - Bob Poucel and Chas. Fischett - Mar. 21st, 1972.
   (a) Fishing around wrecks & reefs.
   (b) How to locate them.
   (c) Fish found in area.
   (d) Method of fishing for them.
   (e) Use of Loran & depth recorder.
8. TROLLING - TUNA, MARLIN, BONITO & ALBACORE - Lecturer - Joe Kaich - Mar. 28th, 1972.
   (a) Identification of species.
   (b) Tackle used.
   (c) Location of general area.

STATEN ISLAND SPINNING CLUB, Inc.

TAGGING TOTALS FOR 1971

J. Barile	Striped Bass - 2
	Bluefish - 2
E. Barrett	Striped Bass - 11
	Bluefish - 31
	Weakfish - 8
J. Bertolini	Bluefish - 2
	Stingray - 1
D. Colvin	Striped Bass - 24
	Eel - 1
A. Craporatta	Striped Bass - 1
R. DeLisle	Striped Bass - 3
	Flounder - 1
G. Haas	Striped Bass - 40
	Weakfish - 17
E. Joy	Striped Bass - 20
	Bluefish - 4
	Weakfish - 4
*L. Killoran	Striped Bass - 84
	Bluefish - 5
	Weakfish - 30
**J. Mester	Striped Bass - 46
	Bluefish - 25
	Weakfish - 5
	Herring - 1
F. Trapanese	Striped Bass - 1

Total returns for 1971 - 6; Total recaptures for 1971 - 1.

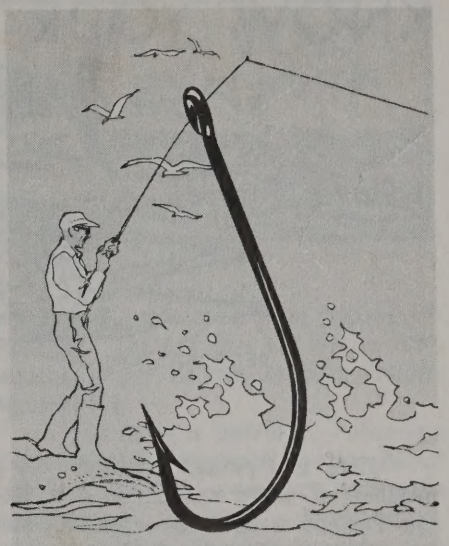
*L. Killoran: most fish tagged, 119

**J. Mester: return traveled longest distance for S.I.S.C. - Montauk Point to Ocean City, Maryland.

MEETING NOTICE

The Citizens for a Clean Environment will hold their monthly meeting at Bayshore-Brightwaters Library, 8:00 PM, January 11, 1972.

This active group invites you to hear Nancy Manfredonia speak on local issues, a subject of vital importance to you and your family.



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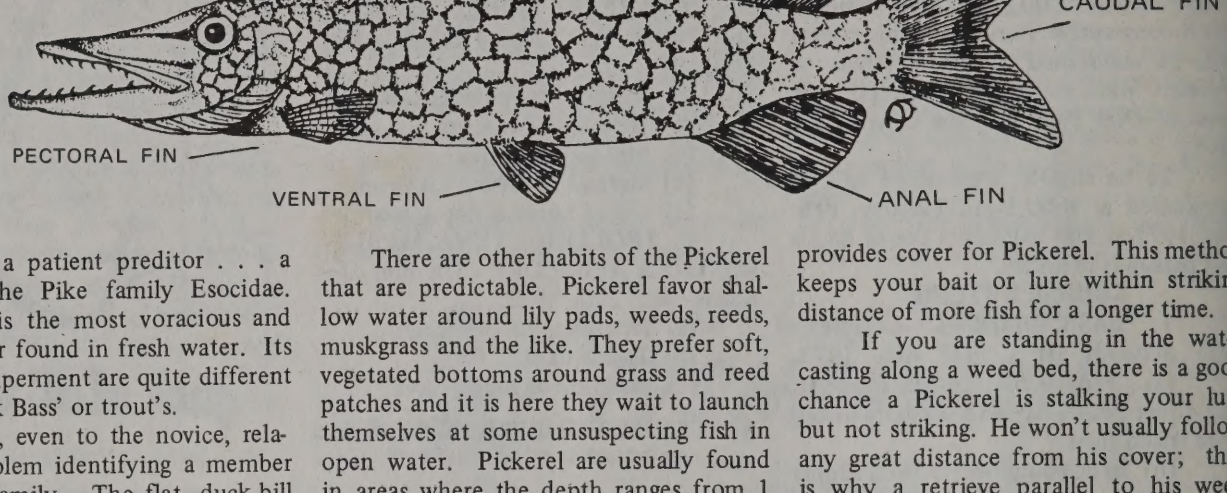
KNOW YOUR FISH! PICKEREL

BY TONY DI FEDE



Here is a patient preditor . . . a member of the Pike family Esocidae. The Pickerel is the most voracious and lusty fish eater found in fresh water. Its habits and temperment are quite different from the Black Bass' or trout's.

There is, even to the novice, relatively no problem identifying a member of the Pike family. The flat, duck-bill like mouth, elongated body, and the rear-set dorsal and anal fins invariably spells Pike family. However, this is not a small family and identification within the family can sometimes present a problem. But, it's not an impossible problem; and for now we will look at the Pickerel, particularly the Chain Pickerel.

The Pickerel's body and spineless fins were designed for powerful and fast attacks. The rear-set dorsal and anal fins along with the caudal fin propel the Pickerel at lightening speed compared to its prey. But with all its power and speed, the Pickerel does not chase its prey; instead, it sits and waits for unsuspecting fish, frogs, insects, crabs or any other aquatic or land animal to come into striking range. The Pickerel strikes once, hard and fast. If it misses, which it seldom does, it promptly returns to its post to wait in ambush for some other creature.

One look at a Pickerel's mouth makes you hesitate to poke your finger anywhere near it. Both jaws are liberally covered with sharp, pointed teeth that curve back into the mouth. The perfect weapon for a true hunting fish. This almost perfect preditor will attack and try to swallow a fish its own size or larger. Pickerel have been known to choke themselves trying to devour more than they could handle.

At times they feed until they are gorged, then they lounge until they have digested their quarry, after which they may go on another fast and furious binge or just feed at a normal pace. In respect to feeding, they are a most unpredictable fish.

There are other habits of the Pickerel that are predictable. Pickerel favor shallow water around lily pads, weeds, reeds, muskgrass and the like. They prefer soft, vegetated bottoms around grass and reed patches and it is here they wait to launch themselves at some unsuspecting fish in open water. Pickerel are usually found in areas where the depth ranges from 1 foot to about 7 feet. However, they may be as deep as 15 feet when the water level drops leaving the grass and reeds above the water line. Generally the larger fish are in the deeper part of the range. If there is open water between a grass patch and shore, Pickerel will face shore waiting just at the edge of the patch. If the weed or grass patch extends from the waterline, the Pickerel will station itself on the deepwater side facing away from shore. There is another predictable thing about the Pickerel. It is not prone to wandering around. A particular group of Pickerel tend to stay in the same area. If you hook and lose a Pickerel, chances are extremely good that he will be there the next day and the day after that. We are all after the big ones and they aren't always in deep water. If the shallows are teeming with fish and insects, or anything else that moves, the lunkers will be there in as little as a foot of water.

Now that we know where to find them and how they feed, the next step is to lure them to take a hook. The first step is to survey the area and see, as much as possible what is available to old Chainsides. This will guide you to a choice of fly or lure that simulates the action of the prey. A Pickerel that is feeding normally, will usually strike at something familiar . . . this is the case with most fish. But with Chainsides you must remember that even the most appetizing bait will be disregarded if it is not in striking range or if the action is wrong. The most effective approach is to retrieve your bait parallel to the edge of the weed or grass patch you suspect provides cover for Pickerel. This method keeps your bait or lure within striking distance of more fish for a longer time.

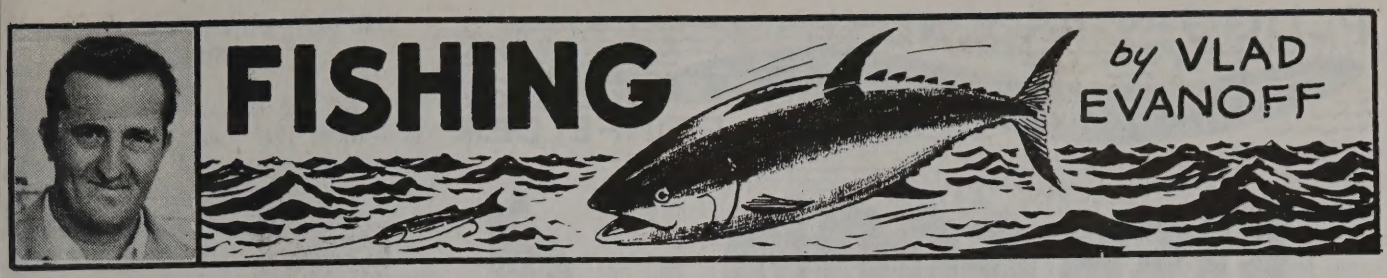
If you are standing in the water casting along a weed bed, there is a good chance a Pickerel is stalking your lure but not striking. He won't usually follow any great distance from his cover; that is why a retrieve parallel to his weed patch is essential. If the retrieve is steady, chances are Chainside won't strike. But speeding up the retrieve occasionally may excite your quarry enough to strike. Your retrieve should normally be faster than that used for Bass. There is one thing I learned the hard way, long ago, and that is, a retrieve is never complete until the lure is ready to be plucked from the water. Don't crank in the last few feet. Here is where you may cause a short strike. I've seen fish all but jump out of the water trying to strike my lure as I snatched it clear of the water. This is especially important with Pickerel but it's a good rule to follow on any retrieve.

Spawning occurs in early spring, March and April, after the ice melts.

Coloration is somewhat variable ranging from green to bronze. But the black chain-shaped markings make it very easy to tell a Chain Pickerel from the Redfin Pickerel, Grass Pickerel, young Northern Pike or Muskellunge.

Even though Chainsides is not a large fish, it is a scrappy fighter and a challenge to fish. They grow to a maximum of about 9 pounds and would be about 36 inches long . . . this is, of course an old lunker of about 10 years of age. Ten years is the normal life span. They are generally smaller when taken, ranging from one to six pounds. They are very exciting sport on a fly rod or very light spinning tackle with single-hook, small baits or lures.

Even a 2 or 3 pound Chain Pickerel mounted with its mouth open in a strike pose makes a trophy to be proud of, especially if you took it with ultra light gear and a single hook.



FLORIDA'S TOUGHEST FISH

I was fishing with my friend Joe in Florida at the mouth of the St. Lucie River near Stuart a few years back. Every-time I cast out my surface plug, I raised a school of fish and could see a half-dozen of them following my lure. Finally one grabbed it and I hooked it and settled down to a long fight. It took almost 30 minutes to boat the fish, which only weighed about 5 pounds. After boating three of these fish, I was ready to quit because my wrists ached. I was actually afraid to cast out again and hook another one of these stubborn fish.

So I asked my friend Joe, who wasn't a fisherman but had more or less come along for the ride, "If I hook another fish, will you fight it?" He nodded in agreement so I cast out the surface plug, and in a matter of seconds hooked another fish. I turned the rod over to my friend and settled back for a rest myself. I watched Joe sweat and grunt as he fought the dogged fish. Finally after about 20 minutes he brought it near the boat. But the "never-say-die" fish fought another ten minutes under the boat before he could raise it to the surface where I could net it.

"How about another one . . . do you want to catch more?" I asked Joe. He frowned, rubbed his wrist, shook his head and said, "No thanks . . . I've had enough!"

So we pulled up the anchor and left the spot to look for another area . . . one where there were no jack crevalle around. Strangely enough, this is a common practice in Florida and other tropical waters where jack crevalle or "jacks" as they are called are plentiful. Anglers actually go out of their way to avoid hooking these tough fish. It takes so long to land them that valuable time is wasted if you are seeking other gamefish such as tarpon, bonefish, snook or sea trout. Natives in Florida hate the jack and rarely fish for them on purpose.

But a good-sized jack is a tourist angler's delight and many visitors to Florida enjoy catching them. At least on the first visit or two or their first encounter with these fish. The fact that jacks are fairly plentiful almost everywhere makes them available when other species are scarce or refuse to bite. Jacks also hit often and always seem to be hungry.

The jack crevalle caught in Florida is the most common species. There are several other kinds of jacks and related species. The big amberjack also found in Florida and other warm waters is related to common jack and grows twice as large. But all the jacks are tough fighters.

You can find jacks in almost all kinds of water in Florida from inlets to bays, around pilings, bridges, piers, rocky points, over coral reefs, around jetties and breakwaters and along the beaches in the surf. You'll often see them chasing mullet, and they like to corner these baitfish against a concrete wall or bulkhead.

No fishing tackle is too heavy for big jacks, but to cast the lures they like, a one-handed spinning rod with a good spinning reel and line testing about 8 or 10 lbs. is good. A bait-casting or "popping" outfit with a revolving spool reel and line testing 15 or 20 pounds is another good outfit. When fishing from piers, bridges, jetties or the surf for big jacks, a surf outfit is much better. Don't use a fly rod on jacks unless you like long drawn-out battles. One angler from Key West hooked one on a fly rod and fought it for FOUR hours before he finally boated it. And it weighed only 7½ pounds!

If you are brave enough to use light tackle for jacks, bring along spare rods, reels, lines and lures. Many an angler has gone home cleaned out of lures or with a broken rod or stripped reel when he ran into a school of big jacks.

One of the most exciting ways to catch jacks is to cast a surface plug such as a popper or torpedo shape and work it back fast. And I mean FAST . . . you can't reel too fast for these fish. You'll often see the jacks follow it and if it looks good to them, they'll hit it. Best fishing usually takes place when they are actually chasing baitfish. But by casting blind you can often raise a few jacks, especially around daybreak and toward dusk.

When you hook a jack, you'll often see one or more other jacks following it around. Then if you are fishing with another angler, he can cast out and hook another fish.

One thing is certain . . . once you do hook a jack, the hook rarely pulls out of their tough jaws and you can settle down to a long scrap. These broad, streamlined fish will never disappoint you with a weak fight. They pull hard and never give up. Other fish may quit and turn over on their side or belly up. But not a jack. Most of the time when you get him near the boat he is just getting his second wind and is good for another 10 to 15 minutes of dogged fighting. And chances are you'll overestimate the weight of the fish by several pounds. Jacks always feel twice as heavy as they really are. In other words, if you hook a 5 lb. jack, you'll think you've got a 10 lb. fish on!

This fighting ability has earned the jack crevalle the name "bulldog of the sea" and "toro," which is Spanish for bull. Florida anglers who would rather catch other fish call him a "damn jackfish."

Jacks would be more popular if they were better eating. The big ones have a very strong, fishy taste. Smaller ones, if bled and cooked soon after they are caught, aren't too bad. If they are smoked, they make pretty good eating.

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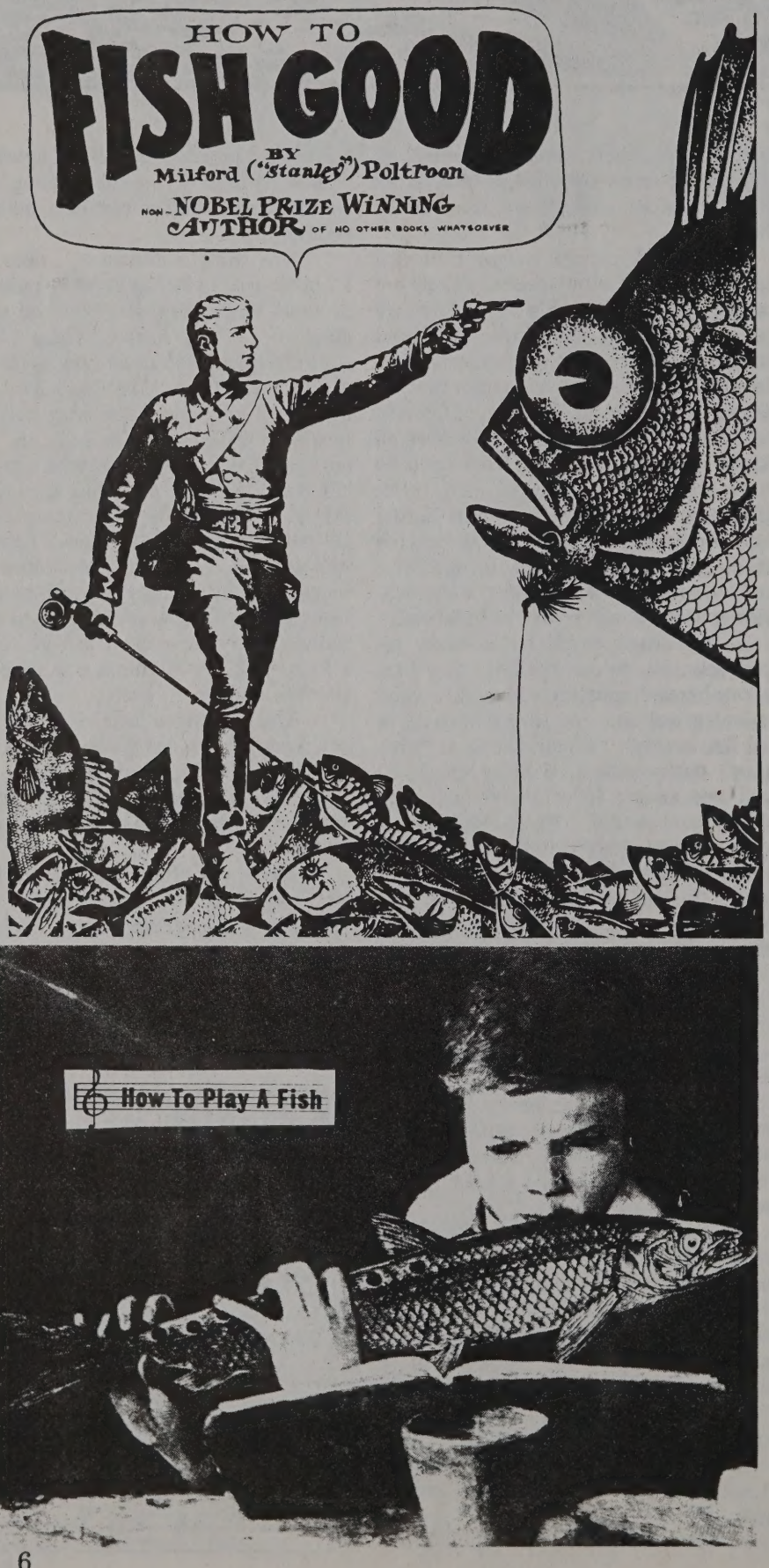
PLUGGIN' AROUND

BY AL REINFELDER



THE BEST BOOK EVER WRITTEN ON FISHING

Milford ("Stanley") Poltroon, the non-Nobel Prize winning author of no books whatsoever, has written the best book ever written on a subject already buried under tons of verbiage. Poltroon's New volume: HOW TO FISH GOOD has taught me more about fishing than I care to know.

Written in the style of the author's highly successful fishing newspaper (The Wretched Mess News), HOW TO FISH GOOD, is about as much like your typical fishing book, as an Eldred Trout Preserve Fisherman is like your old-time, authentic trout fisherman. If you have never read the Wretched Mess News (and this is likely, because there is almost no known way of obtaining this paper; Kib Bramhall having actually sent subscription money to the publisher with no results), let me tell you a little bit about it before the actual book review.

In terms of editorial content, the Wretched Mess is totally unparalled in any literature. To wit, note that the Mess has editors for the following categories: Litter & Pollution, Religion & Bingo, Garbage & Cooking, Foreign Correspondent Overseas, Sex & Garden, Etc. Hardly a journal to be taken lightly (Field & Stream, take note.)

It is from the wealth of knowledge that work on the Wretched Mess has afforded "Stanley" that this angling bible draws its strength.*

128 pages of rock-solid fishing facts fill the semi-soft covers of this learned volume. But for those who cannot read too good, but who wish to fish good, Stanley has provided a plethora of beautiful art works. Two of my favorites are "Tragedy at Orvis" (showing early American split cane craftsmen buried under tons of rods which have fallen from the rafters as the building collapsed as a result of the undermining of the building foundations by giant earthworms); and "Annual Mother's Day Spawning Rites" (which I like because it shows naked ladies).**

Instructional material abounds. The chapter, How to Forecast Weather Good is wonderful. All meteorological nonsense about cloud types is distilled into this seaman's good-sense list of four basic types: 1. Cumulus 2. Stratus 3. Cirrus 4. Big old bastards. There are instructional chapters on choosing equipment good (which is better a rod or a pole?) identifying fish good (would you know a feathered trout if you saw one?) playing fish (you don't even need to

know how to read music); lying (an oft neglected topic by the nations top outdoor writers, all of whom are eminently qualified on the subject); finding your way to West Yellowstone (the map included in this chapter is somewhat weak, as it includes almost every point in the United States except West Yellowstone; do not follow this map, but get your own from the United States Bureau of Mines); and other skills necessary for the sportsman who competes on today's waters.

A good portion of the space is devoted to topics of interest to anglers who enjoy increasing their knowledge of the things surrounding the sport, although such knowledge does not add to - in fact, may even detract from - ones ability to catch more fish. Thus, as I stated at the top, this book has taught me more about fishing than I care to know.

Some of the topics of interest are: True Source of the Mighty Mississippi (this was a big surprise to me); How to Spawn (not quite as surprising, but a review of basics is always welcome); How to Conquer The Fishbone-Stuck-In-The-Throat Problem (as the author says, "No other book on fishing has had either the intelligence or the courage, let alone both, to tackle this universal problem up until now.); How West Yellowstone Got Its Name ("Fascinating," is the only word I can think of to describe this chapter); How To Cope With Evil Spirits That Lurk In Cameras (Frank Woolner's photo advice to beginning outdoor writers never included this information); and many more topics of interest and amusement and wonder.

One chapter which stood out for its daring and fairmindedness (as well as its brevity) was "A WORD IN DEFENSE OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS." This chapter, in toto, goes as follows:

"Fishermen and conservationists are all too prone to criticize the Army Corps of Engineers, simply because this hard-working group is constantly striving to dam all the rivers and streams in this country.

"In a recent lecture given to the West Yellowstone Garbage Improvement League, Col. Elmo Crossrib, who holds a high post (not shown) with the Engineers, defended Corps policy:

" 'We have proved irrefutably that running water carries germs and bacteria. In addition, immoral acts have been known to take place on streams and rivers, in rowboats, canoes and even on barges. Therefore, we make every effort to hastily dam it up, in our uncreasing efforts to stamp out germs, bacteria and immorality.' "

Well there it is folks, hard hitting, and fair! Three cheers for Milton "Stanley" Poltroon for the courage to publish such military thinking.

It took me only three (3) hours to read this book. (In fairness, it should be noted that of that three hours, a full fifteen minutes were spent laughing out loud, ten minutes were devoted to silent chuckling, one minute was spent weeping at the Tragedy at Orvis picture, and I went to the bathroom four times for one minute each time. Thus it only took me two and one half (2½) hours to read "HOW TO FISH GOOD"). The book cost me $2.95 (I bought it by mail from Winchester Press, 460 Park Avenue, New York 10022). Thus, at face value the book is worth a dollar an hour (which is what I used to make as a school teacher in 1959; and which is less than I made as a bottle polisher in a College Point liquer store before that).

In my opinion, the book is worth a heck of a lot more than that (say, $2.47 an hour). BUY IT AND SEE.

** Except, of course, BAIT TAIL FISHING (A.S. Barnes, Cranbury, N.J.) by the author of this column.*

*** I have asked Editor Don Miller to reproduce one of these pictures for this review but he has declined doing "Tragedy at Orvis" because this might lead to problems with England's House of Hardy, a potential advertiser of this publication; and he refuses to print "Spawning Rites" because he does not like pictures of naked ladies - at least not in LIF. Thus you will, hopefully, find some other pictures herein reproduced.*

MIDWINTER FISHING

by DON VETTER

WHITE PERCH AND WINTER BASS

One chill day in January of last year, I cast the small white bucktail onto the shimmering necklace of ice on the far shore of the little tidal stream. As soon as I slid the lure into the water, I felt the light tap and brought up the rod-tip. After a brief splashy struggle, another fat perch went to join the dozen already on my stringer.

As I made the short walk back to my car, having packed it in, I wondered that such fine sport was being ignored by winter-bound fishermen. What was doubly surprising was the fact that this particular spot (which I had to myself almost all winter) is right smack in the busy community of Rockville Centre.

White perch and striped bass are treated together in this article for the following reasons: They are related species and share many of the same feeding habits and a preference for estuarine or brackish water. The chief difference at this time of year is that the perch are plentiful and the bass are very scarce.

So, if you decide to try some winter perch fishing, don't be too surprised if you occasionally come up with a bass. The odds are it won't be a very large one (I have never personally seen a winter-caught bass of more than 3 or 4 lbs.), but at this stage of the game, it's nice just to know they aren't all down south or asleep in the Hudson.

The hot-water discharges from power plants hold an attraction for both species, the bass in particular. An influx of fresh water is also a big attraction. Perch will tolerate much colder water and still remain active. (The creek mentioned earlier produced well till it froze almost solid.)

The question of bait versus lures for this type of fishing is a moot one. I lean toward lures, as I believe a properly presented lure will take more and bigger fish.

The best producers for me have been the small 1/16 to 1/8 oz. white or yellow bucktail, with shad darts and small spoons running a close second.

The method of working any of these lures is low and slow. (If you don't hang bottom a few times, you're not doing it right.) A thin bladed spoon of the fly-rod provides more action than a heavy bladed one.

For the bait fisherman, a live grass shrimp is the all-time favorite meal of Mr. Perch. The method is to impale the shrimp lightly on a small, thin-wire hook, suspended from a light float or drifted free in the current. The perch will usually take the bait lightly, and good timing is essential in hooking them.

The bloodworm is probably the most widely used perch-bait. It may be fished in the same manner described above, but is usually more productive on a bottom rig of the type used for flounders. (A high hook - 12 to 18 inches off the bottom - makes a smart addition to this rig.)

Perch are often a restless fish, and an area that was barren of fish yesterday may prove a bonanza today. They do have their favorite haunts and generally return to them.

Strictly Casting

by Vince Guaglianone

Both moon-phase, AND barefoot boy, AND . . .

"A lot of guys go out and cast their heads off uselessly. You know, trying to make the most of their day off. But retired guys and, you know, the regulars . . . if we don't see things just right, we won't make a cast . . . It's good enough just to hang around . . . look at the water . . . AND . . . talk to each other." North shore regular; from Syosset.

Shortly we'll have moon-phases joined to our tide-tables, so I'd better start on their value in surf fishing. Mainly I want to communicate a sunny attitude, as well as a little moon-information.

You know already it's mostly the moon's pull that causes tide. Enough, now, to recall that the quarter moons make weakest water, 'neap tides': with the least difference between low water and high. The other moon-phases pull stronger. The strongest, the great 'spring tides' of new and full-moon periods, are our famous 'moon tides'.* Gamefish, and your techniques, may prefer strong water (for several reasons). Me too . . . But suppose a very particular coast has fierce water throughout the month? Then, there, a moon-tide's extra force might be too much? Ok, not too much at every tidal-stage . . . Or even compensated, maybe, by a particular wind . . . Seems we need to talk of more than moon-phases . . . Basic fact for surfmen: Coastline-structure affects tidal-strength; not just the moon at any phase.

The fishing value of any PARTICULAR moon-phase as such, is conditioned by factors more, more, more basic in the surf. Moon-phase, like wind (direction and speed) helps to assess the prospects of a casting TIME. More basic is to size up in general a BEACH-POTENTIAL, for any time.

"Damn! I forgot to check the moon-phase." - - - No sweat. The good old worry about tidal-stage is a FIRST; and in combo with sizing up the beach-structure (including the very 'spot' itself). About how deep, high-to-low? How is the shoreline shaped? What is its 'location': its position-to and distance-from sources of swimming bait (bays, inlets, ocean current). Its composition: sandy; rocky; etc.; which partly determines its relativity 'stationary' bait: like muscles; clams – to shedder cran and sand fleas "in the good old (pre-DDT) days."

Ok? The layout of the beach and tidal-stage first. (Subsequent articles will sketch other conditions, like: direction of tidal-current; water-temperature; etc.; including more on the moon, e.g., its lighting at night) . . . But generally which counts more after beach-potential and tidal-stage: wind? Or moon-phase?

Ask this question while you're on your way to a particular surf-stretch that you know well; under a particular wind and moon-phase; at a particular time of year. Remember bait-and-gamefish-migrations? Ask (almost): which gamesters? Which bait? Ask, rats or pigs? Squid, or alewives? Mackerel, sand eels, or mullet? Here Tony DiFede's work has been basic as a suppliment to your experience . . . Many of V. Evanoff's articles: his excellent article in issue No. 48, 1971 (a must!) is pertinent to this and especially my next articles.

For what it's worth, here's a general operational answer to that question: Does the wind or the moon-phase have greater value? – It depends on the spot, AND equally on season/day's weather (including the wind itself).

It depends on the spot, including in as large a sense as: Where on the northeast Atlantic coast . . . In rocky, deep Narragansett, Rhode Island, surf-pros laugh at moon-mindedness more than most of us do down here.

Sure. If the water's so rich that squid will strike (squid!) in the spring, strike baited hook or swimming plug! – who needs to howl at the moon? Look, in the 3-day Point Judith (R.I.) Bass and Blue Tournament 1971, first week of AUGUST: 6 TONS of bass were boated and beached . . . Think it was just the moon-phase? (We had the same full moon period down here, last August. How many TONS? By sportsmen!)

As for the wind: always consider FIRST the wind's value to help bait and gamesters be present. (Or: what good if a wind helps give you a DISTANT cast, if that cast reaches empty water?)

The moon-phase: I've not yet found a particular crescent, or half-moon (no astrology, please) or any in-between phase to ALONE make me breathe like the Wolf Man. And I'm not interested in looking for one per se. Enough are the near auto-smash-ups to reach the right tide under moon-strong periods.

But in Long Island surf (I think) we (or just I) need every possible help. So stay open for exceptions when a meld of conditions might eclipse the value of the famous strong-water moons . . . Like – springtime at Cedar Beach; strong SW wind; strong moon-tide; if NOT near high slack or dead low; then who can hold bottom? Terrible seaweed; tackle awash down the beach in five minutes . .

Like, at a narrow deep outlet between jetties with a big bay behind. Here, a moon-tide turns the REGULAR

LY fierce ebb to a type of raging torrent. (Democrat Point at Fire Island used to be this way till the coast changed greatly 1969-70. Maybe it's still fierce, mid-ebb, most moons). For one thing: can't work a lure . . . Dead low in such spots? High slack? Sure. Maybe an hour's excellent fishing. But, fellow-working man/husband/father, you may be unable to make it just then. You happen to have a time off and, though it's only a quarter-moon rising (or a half-moon, etc.) at such spots: rip and white water all through the ebb . . . Any action? Well – And sand eels 'this' year? Spearing? Mackerel? And are you reaching the edge of a rip or an eddy? "AND . . ."

But don't make an ordeal out of trying to figure out Where-When. In fishing, ordeals don't belong. So go fishing with a tendency to whistle a tune like the barefoot boy. When you store up experiences on the beaches: – "Hey, you know something?" – You'll start to mark basic patterns that may shift moon-phase to third or second or fifth in the order of significance for assessing a casting-TIME at a particular PLACE.

Whistling, yet I do have the moon-phase written down for my fishing time. At home afterward, I fill in what happened that time, that beach in that tide; all the conditions . . .

Finally, take this incident as a dose to prevent a too, too serious preparation for any fishing trip in our future . . . Up in Narragansett, Rhode Island last summer, late afternoon, two boys about age 11 and age 8 (not barefoot, only the older lad with a 7-foot rod) saw me struggling out of 'The Garden' with some good blues. As the children were stepping in, the older boy stopped me.

"Wow! Where'd you get those?"

I played the surf-patriarch whom I've often stopped the same way. So like him I replied: "In the water."

The boy age 11 laughed. "Cmon!"

"Right by 'First Rock'," I gave out. "But the tide's down real low now. And you'd not be able to reach them out there splashing . . . See them?"

I pointed back toward First Rock. The boy gave a long look . . . Like a slow-moving isle in the glowering distance, the roiled water of bluefish drifted further and further from The Garden's bouldery and kelpy coast. Above that drifting isle of white spray, and as if invisibly linked to it, a screeching horde of terns sharpened to an ache our own inquenchable hunger . . . Smart boy (o lucky, lucky lads of Narragansett) he turned back to join a rod-group of youths in talk on Tucker's Dock. But the smaller fellow picked after me as I moved on toward my dumb vehicle parked on Tucker's Dock.

"Which do you like to catch more?" the child asked . . . "Blues, or bass?"

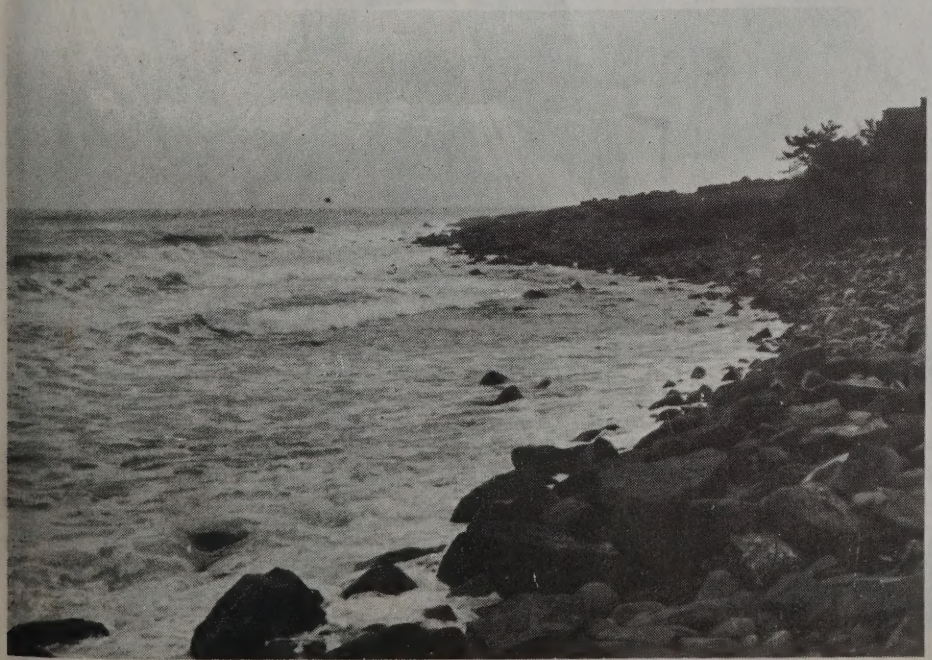
"Bass, bass," I sighed. "And big ones!"

"W h y ?" asked the child; "do they taste better?"

"Oh . . . (ah . . . mmmmm.)"

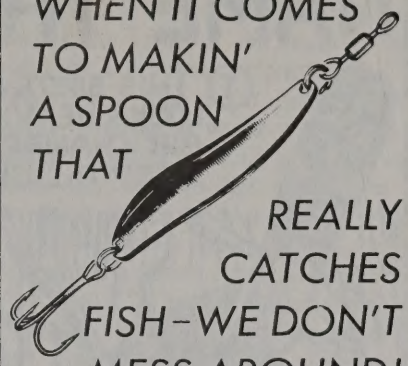
Hopefully he, and all of us: all the children of the surf, will find out why . . . Under any moon-phase.

* *Called 'spring tides' because they 'spring up' extra high.*



"THE GARDEN"

WHEN IT COMES TO MAKIN' A SPOON THAT REALLY CATCHES FISH–WE DON'T MESS AROUND!



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NAME THESE ODDBALL BIRDS

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2 HE CAN'T FLY - HE USES HIS WINGS TO PADDLE THROUGH ICY WATER.
3 ALSO KNOWN AS "BOTTLE NOSE", IT SOMETIMES TAKES OVER AN OLD RABBIT BURROW FOR A NEST.
4 HEAD IS UPSIDE DOWN WHEN HE'S FEEDING, BUT HE STRAIGHTENS OUT WHEN IN FULL FLIGHT.
5 THIS EXTINCT BIRD WAS NEVER ABLE TO FLY.
6 NAMED BY BRITISH SAILORS - HE'S BAD TEMPERED AND STEALS HIS FOOD FROM OTHER BIRDS.
7 THIS NESTING BIRD OF BENGALI WALLS HERSELF INSIDE A HOLLOW TREE AND IS FED BY HER MATE UNTIL THE EGGS HATCH.
8 THIS NEW ZEALAND BIRD HAS NO WINGS.
BY FRED GUARDINEER

1 - TOUCAN, 2 - PENGUIN, 3 - PUFFIN, 4 - FLAMINGO, 5 - GREAT AUK, 6 - FRIGATE BIRD OR MAN-O' WAR, 7 - GREAT HORNBILL, 8 - KIWI BIRD OR APTERYX.

FRONT PAGE PHOTO

Dr. Herbert M. Austin, Associate Research Scientist at the New York Ocean Science Laboratory in Montauk, supplied this photo taken aboard the Russian research trawler "Blesk" back in October. The trawl net had only been down 30 minutes to yield the contents shown.

In a recent letter to the L.I.F. concerned with our editorial on foreign fishing fleets, Dr. Austin expressed his agreement with the text. He also included a few more thoughts on the problem, some of which follow.

(1) The United States has the technology and manpower to compete with the foreign fleets; however, free enterprise cannot compete with government owned and operated "non-profit" ventures. The high cost of labor and operations in the U.S. has eliminated our off-shore efforts. Case in point, the 267-foot SEAFREEZE ATLANTIC, tied up, never even broke even, due to high operating expenses and low catch dollars.

(2) The U.S. market is structured around fresh fish and not frozen, canned, or processed. The result, increased cost.

(3) There is little disagreement from any side as to the "over-fishing" by the foreign fleets, but there is regulation, not much, but a step in the right direction. ICNAF is a self-regulatory body. The Russians are among the most cooperative in this program. They know what'll happen when the fish are gone.

(4) They (the Europeans) eat most all the fish (e.g., red hake) whereas in the U.S. non-table fish go into cat food, chicken food, and fertilizer.

(5) The U.S. does not regulate its own fishermen, nor do they fall under the jurisdiction of the ICNAF regulations. Before the Geneva meeting in 1973, let's clean up our own back yard. The New York Marine Fisheries Regulations (1967, Part IX, Sections 300 to 325 inclusive) set forth a minimum size for commercial catches, however, no minimum mesh size is in effect. In short, it is not illegal to catch "shorts," it's just illegal to land them in New York. They can be sold as "trash" fish at Point Judith. During the summer when the young of the year and yearling scup, flounder, fluke, and weakfish are in, they are taken in the trawls and wither shoveled overboard or landed out-of-state.

FISHING REPORT

Last Sunday's mild weather brought the fishermen out in good numbers. Too bad we can't say the same for the fish. The reports were pretty much the same all along the South Shore.

Montauk skippers reported "fairly good fishing" at the Block Island ledges and at Cartwright Grounds. The "fairly good" was described in detail as being good sometimes and poor sometimes. On the better days about 200 fish are caught, and on the poor days, 30 to 50 fish are caught. As far as size is concerned, most of the fish are in the 3 to 10 lb. range, with the pool winner somewhere in the 20 lb. class. Occasionally a big cod from 30 to 50 lbs. is caught, however, these fish are few and far between.

At Captree only a couple of boats are sailing and the skippers of these boats report consistantly poor fishing. The skippers would rather not admit to consistently poor fishing because they feel it will chase customers away, however, they realize the value of the truth over the value of a few bucks from disappointed fishermen. One point must be made here: Fishing, as we all well know, can change drastically from week to week. Even from day to day, sometimes. So by the time this issue reaches the readership, the fishing scene may be changed. It's worth a phone call to the skippers to find out if it has in fact changed any.

At Freeport, Capt. Kessinger said he's mixing his fishing up a bit in order to come home with any sort of catch. The fishermen want codfish but if Capt. Kessinger were to concentrate on cod, the results would be poor. It seems the fishermen come out determined to fish strictly for cod but as boredom sets in they begin to change their rigs. After a while, any action is welcome. There is a decent smount of blackfishing on the wrecks. Also, whiting, ling and mackerel can be caught off Atlantic Beach.

Rodney Jones and his father, Fred, after a December codfishing trip aboard the "Viking Star."

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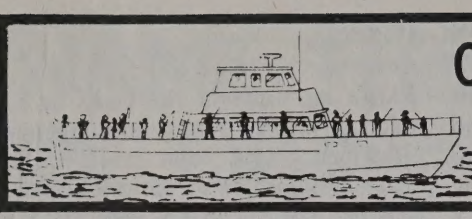

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SQUADRON ANGLERS AGAIN OFFERING POPULAR FISHING COURSE

The where and how of fishing Long sland waters for anything from flounders o shark will be discussed in a game fish- ng course offered by the Squadron Anglers starting registration night, Wed- nesday, January 26, 1972 at 8 p.m. at Berner High School, Carman Road, Massa- pequa, N.Y.

The fee is $8.00 for the course, with much of the money to go into fishing and ecologic causes such as "Save Our Stripers," and the Woods Hole Ocean- ographic Institute. Also, for the past two years the Anglers have used course funds to finance an ecology scholarship at Nassau Comminity College.

All types of fishing techniques will be gone into by well-known pros and top-flight amateurs from the local area. Scheduled as lecturers are Pete Barrett and Al Ristori, experts from the Garcia Company; Carl Darenberg, popular Montauk skipper; Frank DeGaetano, the South Shore's phenomenal striper fisherman; Carl Monaco, the snowshoe flounder expert, and Joe Cash, North Shore party boat captain.

Secrets about baits, rigs, knots and fishing sites will be discussed in two-hour sessions from 8 to 10 p.m. - - - for eitht consecutive Wednesdays starting the last Wednesday this month, January 26th.

There will be extensive questions and answer periods, and women are invited.

For further information call Steve Skurka, 799-0302.

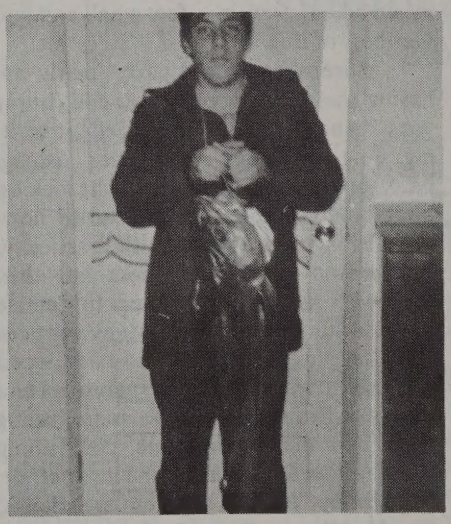
AWARDS NIGHT

The East Bay Anglers of Merrick will hold an awards night for their 1971 "Chiller" Codfish Tournament and for their 1971 club members annual awards. The gala festivities will be held at Manor East, Jerusalem Avenue, Massapequa, N.Y. at 8:30 PM.

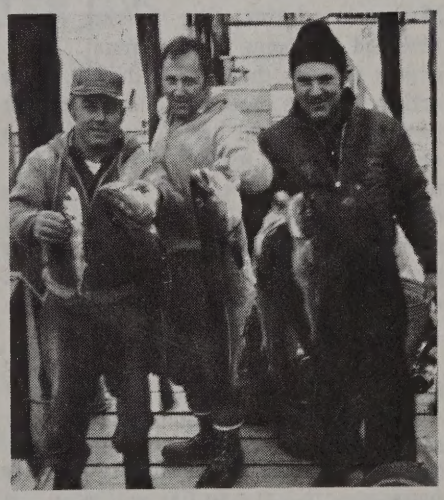
All tournament participants are invited. For further information and tickets, contact: Mr. Bill Hartman, 2715 Riverside Drive, Wantagh, N.Y., (516) 221-0399.

Tickets are also available at: Merrick Marine, Merrick Avenue, Merrick, N.Y.

Steve Bladykas and John Gilbert, both of Oyster Bay, downed these two bucks in the early hours of L.I.'s opening day deer season. Steve's weighed 120 lbs. and John's scaled 100 pounds, dressed. Photo by Joe Bafaro.



Nicky Rego, member of the "Venice Marina Club," caught a 22 lb. cod on 11/30/71 aboard the "Amberjack" out of Sheepshead Bay to win the club's codfish tournament.



Subscribers and members of the Tournament Anglers of Bellmore, Joe Carter, Joe Masone and Ben Schulman, caught cod, mackerel, herring and whiting in 60 ft. of water S.E. of Debs Inlet on January 2nd.

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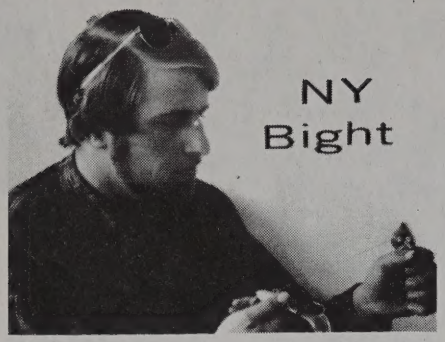
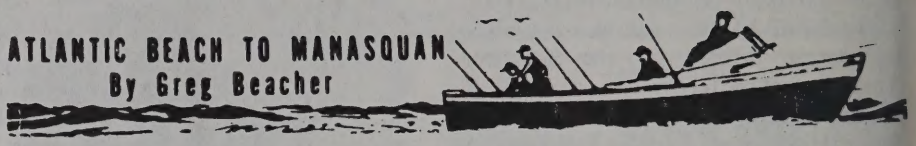


ATLANTIC BEACH TO MANASQUAN

By Greg Beacher



ATLANTIC BEACH

Leon Miller of Henning's Fishing Station reports that winter fishing for the Atlantic area can be described in one word, "weather." The fish are there, but poor weather and sea conditions have allowed only a small percentage of hearty salts the chance to even wet a line, or even to sail. Locally, along Reynolds Channel, herring are there to be caught. And if you are lucky, you might catch a flounder or two. When sea conditions and favorable weather permit boats to sail, they're finding action east, southeast of Buoy 4. Best results are coming around the 10 fathom mark. Mackerel, whiting, ling, herring and a few cod are being caught there. Don't expect to sink the boat with fish. The action there is moderate and anglers are producing a mixed bag of fish. For the remainder of the season, Henning's Fishing Station will be open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. When March rolls around again, and with the start of the spring flounder run, Henning's will be open seven days a week, business as usual.

JAMAICA BAY

Herring seem to be all over the place, throughout Jamaica Bay. Sea wall and pier fishermen, at times, are catching as many herring as they want. At the Canarsie Pier and along the sea walls of Rockaway, towards the Marine Parkway Bridge, herring up to a pound are being caught. While returning home from Long Beach last Saturday, I drove through the Rockaways so that I could avoid the heavy and aggravating traffic of the Belt Parkway. While driving on Beach Channel Drive, just before the Marine Parkway Bridge, I noticed a number of anglers fishing from the sea wall there. I stopped the car and walked over to see why so many anglers were fishing there. My curiosity was quickly satisfied, as I saw anglers with full and half-full pails of herring. They were using worm and skimmer baits, and most important, they were catching fish. There was one fisherman who had caught a couple of nice sized flounders along with his herring catch.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

There was something new for the Sheepshead Bay anglers last week. As the "Victory" of Pier 9 shifted to its new sailing time, Capt. Tred Abrams informed the L.I.F. that the Victory will be sailing at 10:00 a.m. This is an excellent sailing time for anglers who like to party the night before, and still be able to get up the next day and go fishing. Last weekend, the Victory fished Scallop Ridge, southeast of Ambrose Tower and by the Scotland Buoy. There, fares caught a mixed bag of fish consisting of a good catch of whiting and mackerel up to two pounds. To top off the weekend catch were a few small cod and numbers of ling.

Sheepshead Bay party boats are having their troubles as far as cod fishing goes. And if not for the excellent whiting, ling, mackerel and herring fishing, party boats from this port might lock up their boats until spring. Up until now, cod fishing has dropped off drastically. The season started off good, but then the good cod catches started to decline in both number and size. Many captains feel that the lack of cod has developed because of warm water temperatures and the over-fishing by the Russian fishing fleet. At the present time, cod fishing has developed into a hit and miss affair. At Scallop Ridge, the Cholera Banks, the McAllister Grounds and the clam beds, cod catches have been poor and party boats are only producing a few fish per trip. Because of this, Sheepshead Bay boats are trying to mix the day's fishing between cod, mackerel, whiting and ling.

Last weekend, Sheepshead Bay party boats fished three areas for results. They caught a few cod at Scallop Ridge and then moved to Ambrose Tower and the Scotland Buoy. There, anglers caught up to 50 whiting, ling and mackerel per man, this despite last Saturday and Sunday's high winds, sloppy seas and rain.

STATEN ISLAND

Capt. Evy Moore of the party boat "Miss Moore," which sails daily from Staten Island, switched from its normal fishing grounds last weekend and tried fishing the Shrewsbury Rocks. There, anglers caught a mixture of whiting, ling, mackerel and a few cod. Mackerel and herring were jigged mostly off the bottom. Small cod and blackfish from 1 to 3 pounds were caught on clam baits. You can be sure that more boats will be fishing the Shrewsbury Rocks this coming weekend.

SANDY HOOK

Capt. Bunt of the "Sea Horse," of the Highlands, reports they had some good whiting and ling fishing last weekend. Despite sloppy weather and sea sonditions present, anglers caught mostly whiting, along with a few mackerel and ling. The high hook aboard the Sea Horse was about fifty fish, with most anglers averaging from 25 to 35 fish per man. They didn't have to go far for action. They fished from ¼ to a ½ mile southeast of the Scotland Buoy. An example of how slow cod fishing is at the present time is illustrated by the two small cod that were caught aboard the Sea Horse during all of last week. Poor cod fishing might be the result of warm water temperatures or the over-fishing by Russian trawlers. Whatever the reason might be, this season's cod run so far doesn't look good - and nothing more is expected.

The "Miss Take II" of Johnny's Landing will be making her last fishing trips of the season this week. Her captain, Whitey Morenz, is in need of a vacation. And he's going to take one. You might find him fishing somewhere in Florida that is until March when the Miss Take II starts sailing again.

MANASQUAN

Manasquan anglers are in the same boat as the rest of our area. Party boats from this area are producing good mackerel, whiting and ling catches, however cod catches for this area, like others remains poor. Party boats are able to produce some cod action, but again, cod action remains poor, spotty and erratic. This being the case, skippers have turned their efforts towards whiting, mackerel and ling fishing.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

SANDY HOOK

DAY	AM	PM
13-Thur.	5:19	5:40
14-Fri.	6:04	6:28
15-Sat.	6:46	7:09
16-Sun.	7:29	7:51
17-Mon.	8:10	8:33
18-Tues.	8:54	9:19
19-Wed.	9:40	10:06
20-Thur.	10:28	10:56

on SANDY HOOK

Long Island South Side

	h.	m.
Hempstead Bay		
Deep Creek Meadow	+1	02
Green Island	+1	22
Cuba Island	+1	08
Bellmore, Bellmore Creek	+1	29
Neds Creek	+0	50
Freeport Creek	+0	34
Freeport, Baldwin Bay	+0	38
Long Beach	+0	19
Long Beach, outer coast	- 0	29
Hempstead Bay Continued		
East Rockaway	+0	42
Woodmere, Brosewere Bay	+0	35
East Rockaway Inlet	- 0	06
Jamaica Bay		
Plumb Beach Channel	+0	03
Barren Island, Rockaway Inlet	- 0	00
Beach Channel (bridge)	+0	38
Motts Basin	+0	40
Norton Point, Head of Bay	+0	39
New York International Airport	+0	26
Grassy Bay (bridge)	+0	44
Carnarsie	+0	28
Mill Basin	+0	29
Coney Island	- 0	03
Norton Point, Gravesend Bay	- 0	03
Shinnecock Inlet (ocean)	- 0	50
Ponquogue Bridge, Shinnecock Bay	+1	25
Potunk Point, Moriches Bay	+3	35
Moriches Inlet	- 0	56
Mastic Beach, Moriches Bay	+3	28
Fire Island Breakwater	- 0	39
Democrat Point, Fire Island Inlet	- 0	38
Great South Bay		
Fire Island Light	+0	47
West Fire Island	+2	11
Point O' Woods	+2	28
Bellport, Bellport Bay	+3	44
Patchogue	+3	23
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3	39
Great River, Connetquot River	+3	20
Bay Shore	+2	23
Oak Beach	+2	24
Babylon	+2	12
Gilgo Heading	+2	23
Amityville	+2	21
Biltmore Shores, So. Oyster Bay	+2	05
Jones Inlet (Point Lookout)	- 0	19

WILLETS POINT

DAY	AM	PM
13-Thur.	8:54	9:42
14-Fri.	9:32	10:16
15-Sat.	10:11	10:46
16-Sun.	10:46	11:20
17-Mon.	11:27	11:57
18-Tues.	--------	12:11
19-Wed.	12:38	12:56
20-Thur.	1:25	1:41

on WILLETS POINT

Long Island Sound

	h.	m.
Port Chester	- 0	09
Rye Beach	- 0	14
Mamaroneck	- 0	08
New Rochelle	- 0	13
Davids Island	- 0	02
City Island	- 0	03
Throggs Neck	+0	02
Whitestone	+0	02
Old Ferry Point	+0	04
College Point, Flushing Bay	+0	20
Hewlett Point	- 0	03
Port Washington, Manhasset Bay	- 0	01
Execution Rocks	- 0	06
Glen Cove, Hempstead Harbor	- 0	11

ADD 6 HOURS FOR LOW TIDE

BRIDGEPORT

DAY	AM	PM
13-Thur.	8:46	9:18
14-Fri.	9:31	10:03
15-Sat.	10:16	10:46
16-Sun.	10:59	11:27
17-Mon.	11:40	------
18-Tues.	12:08	12:25
19-Wed.	12:51	1:10
20-Thur.	1:36	1:55

on BRIDGEPORT

Long Island Sound

	h.	m.
Oyster Bay		
Oyster Bay Harbor	+0	04
Bayville Bridge	+0	09
Cold Spring Harbor	+0	04
Eatons Point	- 0	01
Lloyd Harbor ent. Huntington	- 0	01
Northport, Northport Bay	- 0	01
Nissequogue River entrance	- 0	07
Stony Brook, Smithtown Bay	+0	05
Stratford Shoal	- 0	09
Pt. Jefferson Harbor entrance	- 0	01
Port Jefferson	+0	02
Setauket Harbor	0	00
Conscience Bay ent. (Narrows)	+0	03
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0	05
Herod Point	- 0	11
Mattituck Inlet	+0	39
Horton Point	- 0	24
Truman Beach	- 0	46

NEW LONDON

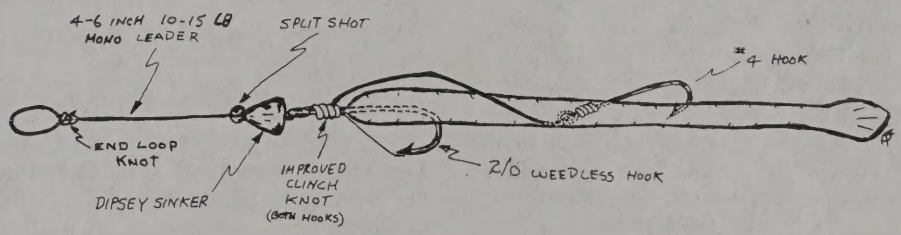
DAY	AM	PM
13-Thur.	6:46	7:22
14-Fri.	7:28	8:04
15-Sat.	8:09	8:46
16-Sun.	8:51	9:27
17-Mon.	9:33	10:09
18-Tues.	10:18	10:52
19-Wed.	11:05	11:41
20-Thur.	11:56	-------

on NEW LONDON

	h.	m.
Plum Gut Harbor, Plum Island	+0	34
Little Gull Island	+0	17
Shelter Island Sound		
Orient	+0	41
Greenport	+1	09
Southold	+1	48
Noyack Bay	+2	10
Sag Harbor	+1	04
Cedar Island	+0	49
Peconic Bays		
New Suffolk	+2	31
South Jamesport	+2	37
Shinnecock Canal	+2	38
Three mile Hbr. ent., Gardiners Bay	+0	26
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	- 0	09
Montauk Harbor entrance	- 0	20
Montauk, Fort Pond Bay	- 0	24
Montauk Point, north side	- 1	08

FRESHWATER TIPS

By *Tony DiFede*



FRESHWATER TIPS – BASS WORMS

The ever popular plastic worm comes in many types, sizes, and colors. The variety of configurations is endless; some are so complicated–3 types of hooks with spring steel weed guards, red beads, swivels, propellers and a host of other rigging contraptions.

Basically you only need two types of worms. Those that sink to the bottom and those that float or sink very slowly. So why not make your own! It cost much less to make your own and you don't sacrifice effectiveness of the lure. The hook sizes and weight should be selected to suit your need. A 2/0 weedless hook up front and a 4 mustad for the rear with about 1/4 ounce of leader is a workable combination. However, the size of the worm will affect the weight needed and hook sizes.

When tying the clinch knot on the forward hook, leave about 8 inches of pigtail. This pigtail is used to secure the rear hook. Tie the rear hook so that it can be embedded in the worm. This will prevent the rear hook from snagging or picking up grass. The split shot prevents the dipsey sinker from chaffing the leader.

The nice thing about this little rig is that all the materials should be standard tackle box items. No special hardware is required. A slow sinking or floating worm is made the same way except without the sinkers.

I have drawn a worm with an end loop on the leader but I prefer no end loop, with a one foot leader. The leader is then tied to a small swivel which is tied to the rod's line. An end loop on a snap and swivel snags more grass and algae than a small swivel.

Try it . . . . . you'll like it!

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